

Greece did not panic. Men went calmly to their closets and retrieved their military uniforms and weapons. Women went about their necessary tasks, and the children assisted as they were able. With level-headed determination and steadfast resolve, the citizenry of Greece mobilized against the coming invaders and delivered their resounding "No!" to the Axis aggressors.

On OXI Day, the people of Greece chose the harder path, the path of resistance. If they had opened their gates to the invaders, much bloodshed and many deprivations might have been avoided. That brave generation of Hellenes, refused to submit to oppression, even at the cost of their homes, their land, and their lives. They chose to fight and even to die so that their children and the children of other nations might live in liberty. Theirs was an act of self-sacrifice that clearly proclaimed the humanitarian ideals of their Orthodox Christian faith and their ethnic heritage.

Demonstrating poise under pressure, the heroes of that period fought against tyranny and delayed the Axis onslaught in the Balkan Peninsula. The Greek nation which said "OXI" contributed to the eventual downfall of the Fascist powers in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the heroes of OXI Day. In their brave words and deeds we see all of the highest virtues of Hellenic heritage: passion for justice, courage at a time of trial, unity in the midst of conflict, and willingness to sacrifice one's life for the good of others. On this day, we thank Greece for saying "OXI."

FREEDOM FOR ALBERTO GIL
TRIAY CASALES

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alberto Gil Triay Casales, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Triay Casales is an independent journalist and the founder of the Estrella Solitaria information centre. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Triay Casales also bravely wrote articles every week describing the truth about the horrors of life under Castro. Because of his belief in truth in print, truth for the people of Cuba and truth to enable the world to better comprehend the daily horrors of totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Triay Casales became a target of the totalitarian regime.

Because of his commitment to exposing the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime, he was arrested on November 9, 2005. According to Reporters Without Borders, he was hospitalized after several heart attacks and then transferred back to the totalitarian gulag in December. His farcical "trial" took place on June 22, 2006, but he is still incarcerated in the gulag while he awaits the "verdict."

Reporters Without Borders recently released this statement regarding Mr. Triay Casales, "We are also worried about the fate of Mr. Triay Casales, whose health is deteriorating. He has had several heart attacks and has high blood pressure. He also has a serious hip problem that could leave him disabled if it is not treated properly."

I remind my colleagues that, under the Castro brothers' totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with exactly this type of swift and brutal repression. This report indicates exactly how abominable the conditions are in the gulag. Mr. Triay Casales has had multiple heart attacks because of the inhumane conditions in the gulag, yet he continues to advocate for freedom.

Mr. Triay Casales is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom of the press, democracy and the rule of law are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. Let us never forget and always support those who are struggling to liberate peoples from the grip of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that journalists such as Mr. Triay Casales are locked in dungeons for writing and publishing the facts about the nightmare that is the Cuban tyranny. My colleagues, we must fight for freedom whenever and wherever human beings are shackled by totalitarian dictators. We cannot allow peaceful pro-democracy activists to languish in the depraved prisons of tyrants. We must demand immediate freedom for Alberto Gil Triay Casales and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2231, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2005. I, along with 254 of my colleagues, have co-sponsored this important legislation since it was introduced in March of 2005. Support for this legislation will help ensure funding sources for further research and study of the environmental factors which contribute to the occurrence of breast cancer in both women and men remain available. It is as a result of this research that the causes of breast cancer will be determined. It is as a result of this research and other efforts that a cure will be found.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death among American women. Sadly, one in every eight American women—an estimated 200,000 women this year alone—will be diagnosed with breast cancer according to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The American Cancer Society reports in "Breast Cancer Facts and Figures 2005–2006" that 40,410 women lost their fights with breast cancer last year. More must be done to understand the causes of breast cancer. More must be done to find a cure.

On Guam, we have a disturbing shortage of oncology-related services. There is no radiology treatment center on Guam. Our only oncologist recently left our island. Cancer prevention and research are an even higher priority for the people of Guam in light of the challenges we face each day toward gaining better access to cancer diagnosis for those

who may be at risk, better treatment for those battling the disease, and better long-term care for those who are survivors.

A multi-faceted research approach based on a broad spectrum of causes ranging from genetics to environmental factors relating to breast cancer is needed. We will neglect a major aspect of treatment and possible future prevention if we do not support more funding for research on the impact of the environment on breast cancer.

We have an opportunity to further raise awareness for this disease next month by scheduling a vote on this bill. October 2006 will mark the 21st anniversary of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) has done excellent, life-saving work over the years educating women about early breast cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment. NBCAM continues its mission to reach out to women with several key messages. Most notably, NBCAM advocates for the importance of early detection through annual mammography screening for women over 40, or earlier for women at increased risk. I commend and fully support their efforts.

I am committed to help facilitate a better understanding of what causes breast cancer. I am committed to help find a cure. Passage of H.R. 2231, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2005 will help achieve these goals. I urge my colleagues to support floor consideration for H.R. 2231.

CELEBRATING "OXI" DAY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, we often refer to the World War II generation as "the greatest generation," not only because of their bravery in times of economic depression and war, but also because of their strength, their moral fortitude, and their commitment to advancing the cause of freedom both here and abroad. We celebrate the accomplishments of their generation and respect them for who they are and the lessons they impart, as we rightly should.

My primary purpose today, in addition to honoring our American World War II heroes, military and civilian alike, is to celebrate the courage of Greece's "greatest generation," those citizens who, on October 28, 1940, stood up to the Axis powers and said "no" to the spread of fascism and hate.

The significance of "oxi" day and what it meant to the outcome of World War II cannot be overstated. On that fateful day in October, the small, battered and courageous nation of Greece made a firm stand against the aggression of Italy and Germany. And by doing so, the people of Greece disrupted Nazi Germany's war plans and ensured that freedom would live another day.

By October 1940, World War II had begun, and the Nazi regime already was operating in high gear. Under Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini, German and Italian forces were threatening the whole of Europe. In fact, Hitler intended to eliminate British operations in the Mediterranean in order to weaken their ability to hinder German advances.

To achieve this objective, Hitler needed the Axis powers to strike British forces in Greece. By conquering Greece, Hitler hoped to gain access to the important connecting link with Italian bases in the Dodecanese islands, giving Italian forces a stranglehold on British forces in Egypt where they were already under attack. The defense of Egypt was vital to Allied positions in the oil-rich Middle East.

On October 28, 1940, the Italian Ambassador in Athens issued an ultimatum to Greek Prime Minister Metaxas, demanding the unconditional surrender of Greece and threatening Italy's declaration of war. Mussolini gave Prime Minister Metaxas only three hours to reply.

Mussolini obviously underestimated the resolve of the Greek people and their passion for liberty. In what has now become one of the most celebrated actions of World War II, Prime Minister Metaxas responded with the word "oxi," which means "no" in Greek.

This statement, which embodied the true spirit of the Greek people, demonstrated undeniable courage and strength in the face of imminent invasion by Italian forces. "Oxi" echoed the same devotion and love of country that Greek patriots exhibited during their war of independence against the Ottoman empire when they defiantly shouted "liberty or death." The Prime Minister's actions marked the beginning of one of the world's most heroic efforts to combat tyranny and oppression. Knowing that Greece would not give in to its demands, Italy invaded.

Greece went into battle as the clear underdog. In addition to having a population seven times smaller than Italy, the disparity in the nations' armed forces was even greater. Italy enjoyed ten times the firepower of Greece in its army and navy and seven times the number of troops. Italy's command of the air gave Greece little hope of success. However, despite their lack of equipment and smaller numbers, the Greek army proved to be well-trained and resourceful. Within a week of the invasion, the Italian forces were suffering serious setbacks.

On November 14, 1940, the Greek army launched a counteroffensive and quickly drove the Italian forces back into Albania. By December, the Greeks had captured the town of Pogradec in eastern Albania, where the fighting continued for several months. It became very clear that the Greeks were not going to stand for defeat. In a last ditch effort to bring the skirmish to a close before they would be forced to ask Hitler to intervene, the Italian armed forces launched another assault on March 12, 1941. It took only six days for them to concede that German intervention was necessary.

Hitler ordered the German invasion of Greece on April 6, 1941, but it took the Germans five weeks to finally end the conflict. This delay proved critical to the outcome of the entire war. Italy's inability to capture Greece enabled the British to win major victories against Mussolini's forces in North Africa, solidifying their positions in the region.

This delay also contributed to the failure of the German Barbarossa campaign to conquer Russia. Because he was forced to capture the Balkans, mainly Yugoslavia and Greece, Hitler had to delay his plans to invade and capture the Soviet Union before the winter of 1941. The Greek resistance, both in Albania and in another famous battle in Crete, altered the

time table of the planned Barbarossa invasion by at least six months, proving a favorable development for Allied Forces.

Perhaps the most important effect the Greeks' unyielding stand had on World War II was guaranteeing that the Germans would not gain the advantage against the British. Although Germany had conquered much of Europe, Hitler's inability to decimate British and Russian forces early in the War would eventually prove fatal. Thanks to Prime Minister Metaxas saying "oxi" and inspiring the heroic Greek resistance, the war tide was permanently changed.

The Allies gained tremendous advantages by the stubborn and proud resolve of the Greek armed forces, but the Greeks themselves suffered loss and sacrificed much. Nearly one million Hellenes died during this time, roughly 14 percent of the population in 1940. And yet, the entire Western world, discouraged and fearful of the Axis powers and increasingly ugly war, were inspired by the Greeks' incredible victories. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill honored these acts of heroism, declaring that "Today we say that Greeks fight like heroes; from now on we will say that heroes fight like Greeks."

Mr. Speaker, "Oxi" Day continues to serve as an inspiration to all those in this world who cherish democracy and freedom. It marks defiance of fascism and ongoing commitment to doing what is right. As a Greek-American, I am proud to honor the memory of those brave patriots who fought for the freedom of their country and in so doing, helped secure it for the entire free world.

Today freedom-loving nations are battling a new enemy, not defined by nation but by hatred of freedom and love of fear and oppression. As we continue to fight the Global War on Terror, we should take a page from Prime Minister Metaxas and the Greek people and echo their resolute "no" to those who threaten liberty. By doing so, we honor the spirit of "Oxi" Day and all those who have sacrificed to defend freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF SENATOR GEORGE ONORATO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Senator George Onorato, an outstanding New Yorker and a great American. For more than half a century, George Onorato has distinguished himself as a dedicated public servant devoted to his family, his State, and his country.

Senator Onorato is an accomplished and hardworking legislator who is well respected by his colleagues. After his election to the New York State Senate in 1983, he successfully sponsored legislation benefitting seniors, consumers, tenants, Medicare patients, the environment, and current and former members of the U.S. armed forces. George Onorato has held positions in Senate leadership since 1992, and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Minority Conference, as a member of the Policy Committee of the Senate Democratic Conference, and as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Insurance. Because of his

leadership on issues affecting the environment and air quality, he was appointed Co-Chairman of the State Senate's Democratic Task Force on Energy & Conservation. Senator Onorato also serves on the Minority Task Force on Waterfront Development, a platform he has used to promote one of his most cherished goals, creating more affordable housing for the elderly and for moderate and low income New Yorkers. He is a past President of the Conference of Italian American Legislators.

In addition to his tenure in the State Legislature, Senator Onorato has distinguished himself in service to his country. He served in the United States Army, 118th Medical Battalion from 1950 to 1952, and was awarded a Presidential Citation. To this day, he remains a champion for veterans and their families as well as current members of the armed forces. As a member of the Senate Minority Task Force on Vietnam Veterans and the Acting Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Senator Onorato was a sponsor of legislation providing student aid to Vietnam veterans, and in 1997 introduced legislation to increase the level of such funding. He sponsored and supported legislation to help develop a data base for research on dioxin-related birth defects of children born to Vietnam veterans. In 2003, Senator Onorato was one of the founders of the bipartisan New York State Armed Forces Legislative Caucus, which he currently co-chairs.

Just as noteworthy as his dedication to public service, George Onorato is a devoted and loving family man. He is married to the former Athena Georgakakos. They have three adult children, Joanne, George and Janice, and six grandchildren. His wife regularly accompanies him to legislative sessions in Albany, where the two of them are a universally admired and inseparable couple.

Senator Onorato and his wife are equally devoted to their community. A lifelong resident of Astoria, Senator Onorato, is active in numerous civic organizations. Since 1972, he has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Taminent Regular Democratic Club, one of the largest and most prominent Democratic Clubs in our nation's greatest city. Senator Onorato has also served as a Democratic Leader of the 36th Assembly District since 1977.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his courageous wartime service to our country in the United States Army, to the people of the State of New York, and to his beloved family, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me to pay tribute to the enormous contributions to civic life made by the Honorable George Onorato.

HONORING SENATOR WESLEY
CHESBRO, CALIFORNIA STATE
SENATE, DISTRICT 2, HUMBOLDT
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize State Senator Wesley Chesbro of Arcata, who is being honored for his 32 years of public service to the people of California.